SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL

Sabbath School Association,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

LP
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1863
M85 11

MONTREAL:
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1863.

OFFICE-BEARERS, A.D. 1863.

ELECTED 17th FEB. 1863.

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Corresponding Secretary.

JOHN THOMSON.

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WILLIAM RUTHERFORD.

Committee.

THE OFFICE-BEARERS.
THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE ASSOCIATION.
A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TEACHERS OF EACH SCHOOL.

The Committees meet on the last Tuesday Evening of every month, at 7½ P.M., and oftener, if need be.

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

The Association has now terminated the second year of its operations. The year has been one of progress. In the report of February 1862, our first year, the following schools numbering 6 in all, were in connection with the Association :

1. Lagauchetiere Street.
2. Cote Street.
3. St. Gabriel Street.
4. Mile End.
5. Griffintown.
6. Petite Cote.

with 644 Scholars, and 88 Teachers on the roll, and an average attendance of Scholars, of 490.

During the year just ended, two new schools have been opened in localities which our Church had not previously worked. :

1. St. Mary Suburbs.
2. St. Joseph Suburbs.

The importance of these districts from their extent and population is great.

In St. Mary Suburbs, many of the families of our church reside at too great a distance from the Church Sabbath Schools to allow of their being of easy access to their children. The want of a school had therefore been long felt in that district. Considerable difficulty was found in procuring suitable rooms for a school, and this difficulty has been overcome for the time being through the obligingness and liberality of Mr. A. McNaughton, who had kindly given the Association without charge, the use of two rooms at the corner of Dalhousie Square, and St. Mary Street.

A Sabbath School was opened there under the auspices of the

Association on the 13th April last; with Mr. A. Duncan as Superintendent. The attendance the first Sabbath was 24, with 5 Teachers, and last Sabbath the attendance was 43 with 9 Teachers. The highest attendance has been 59, and there are 80 scholars on the roll. Mr. Archibald is the present Superintendent.

But the important event of the year in the annals of the Association was the opening, with devotional exercises, of the Mission Church near the corner of St. Joseph and Seigneur Streets, on Thursday, the 4th February instant, and the opening of the Sabbath School of that Church in connection with the Association on the previous Sabbath day, the 1st February. This District embraces in its midst factories and shipyards, and promises to be thickly peopled by mechanics and workmen employed in these establishments. Many of the population are Scotch or of Scotch descent, and Presbyterian origin, and therefore possessing a special claim upon the sympathies of the Presbyterian denomination of Christians.

It is due to the Sabbath School Association in connection with the Church of Scotland, to state that a most flourishing Sabbath School has been taught in this district for over 4 years, under the auspices of that Association, and on the opening of our new Church, that Association, in the most liberal spirit, gave up possession of the district to our Association, to be exclusively worked by it, and it is to be sincerely hoped, that our members will duly appreciate the trust reposed in them, and the heavy responsibility they have assumed, of faithfully ministering to the spiritual wants of the young of this flourishing and rapidly growing section of our City.

The attendance in the St. Joseph St. Sabbath School last Sunday was 100 scholars and 9 teachers.

The want of a sufficient staff of teachers is much felt in this School.

The following is the present state of the 8 Schools :

Schools of the Association as to the Number of Teachers and Scholars.

School.	Teachers.		Scholars.	
	on roll.	average attendance.	on roll.	average attendance.
Lagauchetière St.	30	27	215	131
Coté Street.	22	20	176	130
St. Gabriel St.	11	9	105	70
Mile End.	12	11½	120	85
Griffintown	11	9	68	54
Petite Cote	6	6	45	35
Quebec Suburbs.	10	9	80	41
St. Joseph Street.	9	9	100	100
	111	100	909	646

Forming a total of 111 Teachers and 909 Scholars on the roll, being an increase of 32 Teachers and 265 Scholars during the year.

MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.

The important duty of training the children of the Schools to aid as missionary collectors is not lost sight of; collections for missions are periodically made by the scholars, and a fund formed, which is disposed of in the furtherance of the missionary schemes of our Church.

The total amount collected by the schools last year was $310 14½, as follows:—

Lagauchetière	100 00
Coté Street	148 06
St. Gabriel Street	12 13
Mile End	15 00
Griffintown	17 16½
Petite Côte	7 07
Quebec Suburbs	10 85
	$310 14½

It cannot be too carefully inculcated on teachers and parents that the young should be led to cultivate a large and liberal

spirit with self-denial; and they cannot better do this than by occupying their leisure with the prosecution of schemes, be they great or little, which tend to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the glory of God, ever holding in view as their incentive to persevering effort in the cause of Christ, those spirit stirring words of the angels' song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

SCHEME OF LESSONS.

It is a pleasing indication of the Catholicity of spirit of the generation in which we live, that one and the same scheme of lessons for the schools is in use in this City in all the Presbyterian Sabbath Schools, except that of the American Presbyterian Church. The scheme in use for the present year was selected by a joint committee of the two Sabbath School Associations of the Church of Scotland and of the Canada Presbyterian Church in Montreal, and was published by the Edinburgh Sabbath School Association as their scheme for A. D. 1863.

SINGING.

The singing of the scholars is a matter which is occupying the thoughts of the friends of the young. All enlightened Christian persons feel deeply the duty of giving utterance to devout feeling in singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, and there can be no more pleasing and edifying exhibition than the blending of youthful voices in the harmonious utterance of the beautiful hymns now so familiar in revival meetings. It is to be hoped that the practice will grow of cultivating the natural gifts of the scholars for singing, and that much care will be given to use such hymns and tunes as may be suitable to the joyous and hopeful temperaments of the young. It has well been observed that there is far too much monotony in our singing, and nothing can be conceived more unbecoming and incongruous than the singing of a hopeful song of praise to a slow plaintive tune, as is sometimes heard. Some of our schools are using the well known collection of hymns and songs by the Rev. Mr. C. H. Bateman,

and some are using a collection called "Songs of Zion," by Rev. J. H. Wilson, published by Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh; each collection containing in the last editions 150 songs. These Collections are recommended by the Association to the schools.

FINANCES.

It will be seen by the financial statement that the expenditure of the Association during the last twelve months has been $204, 17. Of this sum $192,64 have been contributed by the three churches, in the proportion of about 45 per cent to Coté St., 35 per cent to Lagauchetiere St., and 20 per cent to St. Gabriel Street.

The expenses of the mission schools which are paid out of this fund have been carefully checked and revised by the Committee, and have been on the most economical scale; consisting of payments for fuel, books, children's papers, furniture, &c., &c.

The Association would aim at making the Mission Schools self-supporting, but this result is a work of time and delicacy. As new schools are planted in destitute localities, expenses must be incurred by the Association and met out of its funds, and the nucleus of a christian membership about each school must be formed before the schools can be supported by the contributions of those who derive all the benefit. But the work of religious instruction in a rapidly growing city like Montreal must progressively increase, and the possession and control of pecuniary means by the Association are absolutely indispensable for the successful prosecution of its objects.

An appeal is earnestly and continuously made to Christian friends that they will further the aims of the Association with their money as well as their counsels and prayers. "Curse ye Meroz, said the Angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." It must be ever borne in mind that Christianity is aggressive in its nature and tendencies; its supporters are called upon to work and

contend against a tide of evil; they are soldiers in an enemy's country; they are called upon to endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and an obligation to work is laid upon them from which none are free. There is this consolatory reflection, that the fulfilment of that obligation brings its own rich and ample reward, whereas its neglect also brings most baneful results, for it is most true in a spiritual as well as secular sense, that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat.

MEETINGS.

Besides the quarterly meetings of the Association mentioned in the constitution, which were duly held during the year, the executive committee have held meetings monthly and oftener, at which much business of great importance to the well being of the Association was transacted.

THE FUTURE.

Your Committee would respectfully advise that the superintendents and teachers of the several schools should continually bear in mind the following counsels:—

1. Aim at improving the condition of the Libraries of the schools. This is a work of time, and good results in this as in every thing else, are only attained by care and painstaking and perseverance.

2. We have pointed to the importance of aiming at making the schools in due time self-supporting in order that the Association may be free to occupy new fields of labour. This should be borne in mind.

3. Let the Teachers endeavour to imbue the scholars with a missionary spirit, "to provoke to good works."

CONCLUSION.

Your Committee feel it to be a subject for congratulation that the operations of the Association have brought together in a manner, which could not otherwise have been done, the active members of our three Churches in Montreal. The result is undoubtedly the exhibition and cultivation of a catholic spirit—a

spirit of harmony and unity among those who are "endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace—members of the body of Jesus Christ—one in Christ Jesus."

Your Committee also feel that this new year should begin with increased seriousness in all those who have to do with the care of souls. In some of our congregations, death has not been idle. On many also, the Spirit of God has been poured out, conversions in unexpected quarters have been effected, and there are now many anxious inquirers who seek for peace and reconciliation with God. A deep responsibility rests upon all God's people, that by their lives and conversation and prayers they commend the cause and claims of Jesus Christ.

"Brethren, pray for us."

The Canada Presbyterian Church Sabbath School Association, Montreal, in account with James Walker, Treasurer.

Dr.

1862.				
April 25.	To paid for	Mile End School	-	$51 28
" 28.	"	" Quebec Suburbs do	-	15 00
Aug. 6.	"	Mile End do	-	71 58
" 28.	"	Quebec Suburbs do	-	3 50
Sept. 3.	"	Griffintown do	-	5 80
Oct. 28.	"	Petite Cote do	-	12 21
"	"	Quebec Suburbs do	-	13 00
1863.				
Jany. 26.	"	Griffintown do	-	11 80
" 31.	"	Balance on hand do	-	8 47
				$192 64

Cr.

1861.			
Dec. 12.	By Received from	St. Gabriel St. Church	10 00
1862.			
Feb. 12.	"	" Lagauchetiere St. do	40 00
March18.	"	" Coté Street do	100 00
April 10.	"	" St. Gabriel Street do	22 64
" 25.	"	Lagauchetiere St. per Mr. King	10 00
1863.			
Jany. 26.	"	" " S. School	10 00
			$192 64

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JAS. WALKER,
Treasurer.

Montreal.